OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER *Fall 1990*

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band

THE CIRCLE

Starwalk

What does the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band do on a scorching July day in Nashville? Well, on Monday the 10th, they put their hands in wet cement!

With "The Rest Of The Dream" album playing in the background and dozens of cameras flashing, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band was inducted into the Walkway Of The Stars at Fountain Square.

This is a special honor for Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, since only one artist is selected each year from the recent Grammy winners!

We can't promise that the temperatures will be any cooler, but we can promise that you will enjoy seeing the handprints of Jimmy, Jeff, Bob & Jimmie next time you're in Music City!

A great band approaches almost 25 years!

by Calvin Gilbert, Music Critic

L.A. Morning Advocate

It's unbelievable, but next year marks a quarter-century of music by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.

I hope some big observance is held, because the Dirt Band may be the most consistent band in the history of American pop music. They've never had those fleeting moments of creative genius exhibited by other groups. However, it was no small achievement to meld country music's past with its future in the two volumes of *Will the Circle Be Unbroken.*

And although personnel has changed through the years, the Dirt Band never completely self-destructed — like the Doors. Or chased different tangents — like the Byrds. Or turned into a nostalgia act — like the Beach Boys.

Since John McEuen left the group three years ago, the Dirt Band's music has lacked the banjo and fiddle sound, but they were headed in that direction before he left.

What remains is a country-rock sound which is, perhaps, more pure and honest than the styles popularized by the Eagles and Poco.

The Dirt Band has always had a knack for selecting good songs. They've done it again with the latest album *The Rest of the Dream.*

Just as it's hard to tell whether the Dirt Band actually improved upon Jerry Jeff Walker's original of "Mr. Bojangles," it's equally difficult to say that they've done a better version of John Hiatt's song which serves as the title track.

Between the vocals of Jeff Hana and Jimmy Ibbotson, the group manages to put enough originality in its cover material to make comparisons a moot point.

In all honesty, the Dirt Band's never sounded better as an ensemble. *The Rest of the Dream* may not include anything that's ultra-trendy. Come to think of it, avoiding trends has been the key to the Dirt Band's success for the past 24 years!

* * *

"Nitty Gritty Dirt Band is the greatest musical group/band that ever existed! Keep it up!"

Carrie Oversby
Ochre River, Canada

Circle Two Goes Gold

(L. to R.): Bruce Hinton, President of MCA/Nashville; Mark Bleisener, Publicist for Nitty Gritty Dirt Band; Jeff Hanna; Jimmy Ibbotson; Randy Scruggs, Producer for Nitty Gritty Dirt Band's* 'Will The Circle Be Unbroken Vol 2.'; *Tony Brown,

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band At Its Very Best At Westport

By Dick Richmond
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

It doesn't happen often, but every once in a while a person catches a show at which the performers are at their very best. That occurred Wednesday night when the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band took the stage at the Westport Playhouse and put on perhaps the finest show I have ever seen it give, and the band did for a cheering, packed crowd.

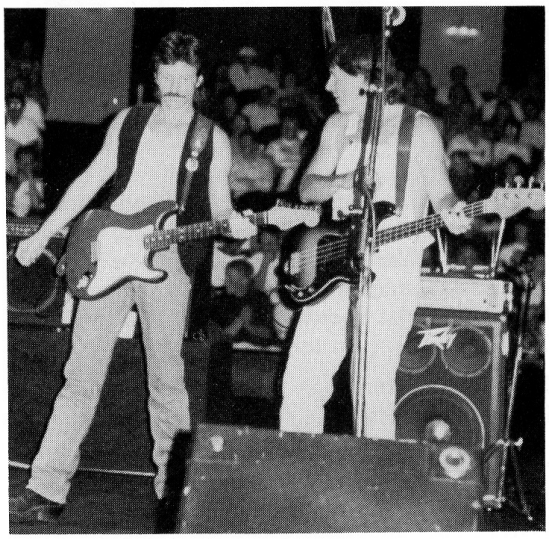
A few years ago, the band was reduced to a quartet when John McEuen split, leaving Jeff Hanna on lead guitar and lead vocals, Jimmy Ibbotson on bass, mandolin and lead vocals, Bob Carpenter on keyboards and vocals and Jimmie Fadden on drums and harmonica. The first concern was whether the sound would change.

Well, it did, but it didn't make any difference.

And in their concert at Westport, everyone was on a roll, especially Ibbotson, whose unassuming air is as charming as his antics. When some performers horse around, it messes up the timing and fouls up the show. Ibbotson's moves, and he drew Hanna into the frivolity, could have been choreographed; they were that smooth in a klunky sort of way.

A good part of the Dirt Band's repertoire is a high-spirited, high-energy mix of folk, country and rock. So it opened at a pace that maintained almost throughout the performance.

The musicians slowed, of course, for such numbers as "Mr. Bojangles," but they then gave Hanna and Ibbotson the chance to kick up their heels in unison, delighting everyone and encouraging Ibbotson into more spontaneous routines.



They were funny, too, when they introduced Rodney Crowell's "Long Hard Road," their first No. 1 song, which happened to them in 1984.

"We got a No. 1 song after more than 17 years in the business," Ibbotson said. "Overnight success is not a phrase that leaps into your mind when you think of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band."

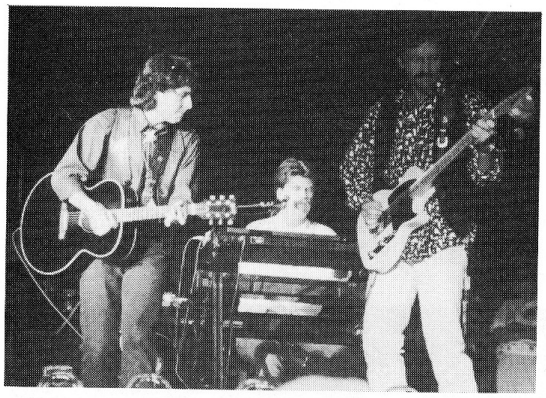
The band is marking its 24th year. Now that is success.

St. Louisan Brian Clarke opened the show, singing mostly original material and accompanying himself on guitar.

No stranger to packed houses inasmuch as he and his group, the St. Louis Browns, draw them regularly, he was not intimidated and entertained the crowd with aplomb. He added to the evening.

Photos courtesy of Tom Lansaw

F A N · F A I



All the stars made sure they were in town for Fan Fair Week and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band was no exception!

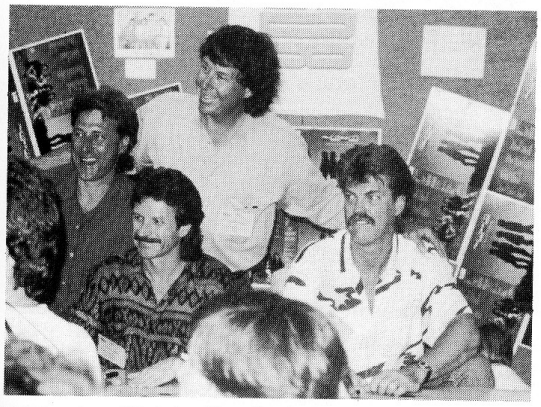
"I've just returned from a (Nitty Gritty) Dirt Band concert in St. Louis and as many times as I've seen them, this was their 'best ever' show! Absolutely fabulous! They make you feel as if you've known them your whole life! That really turns an audience on!"

Mary Kay Whittington
Belleville, Illinois

"I think the (Nitty Gritty) Dirt Band is wonderful – would even say 'entertainers of the CENTURY'! I see them every chance I can."

Kathy Simon
Omaha, Nebraska

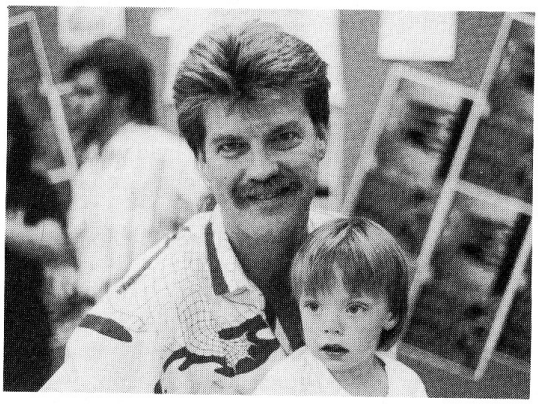
Jimmie, Jeff, Bob and Jimmy were enjoying themselves as much as the fans were!



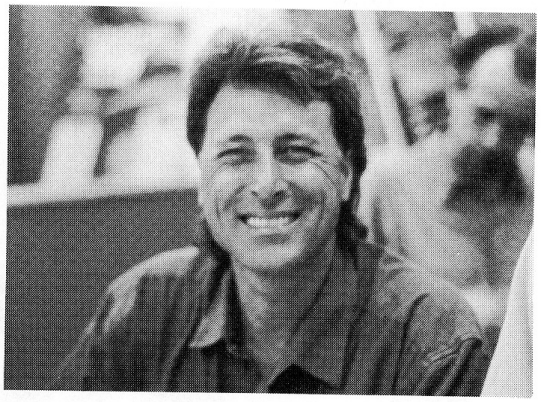
Photos courtesy of Linda Laughlin • Tom Lansaw • Kim Snively

"I've seen them four times and have been fortunate to speak to them after shows. Not only are they great entertainers, but also great people! They made me feel very special; I'll never forget that!"

Barbara Bendik
Washington, Pennsylvania



Fan Fair '90 . . . the bad news: Traffic is so slow! Hotels are all booked up! Restaurants are packed! Parking is just next to impossible!



"The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band is the best country band today. I've seen them in concert several times and they really love their fans and take time for each one."

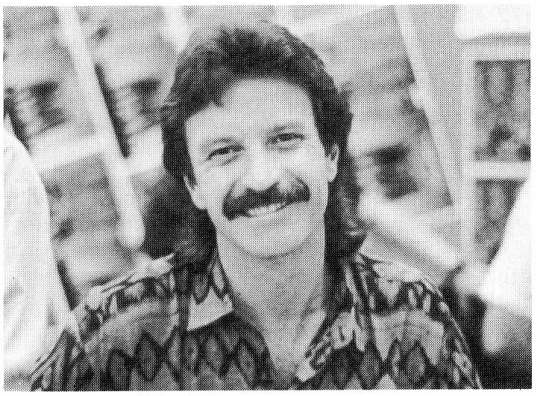
Marilyn West
Bloomington, Indiana

I R · 1 9 9 0

"I have seen quite a few country stars in the last three years. My opinion: I have not seen anyone as good or great as the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band in concert."

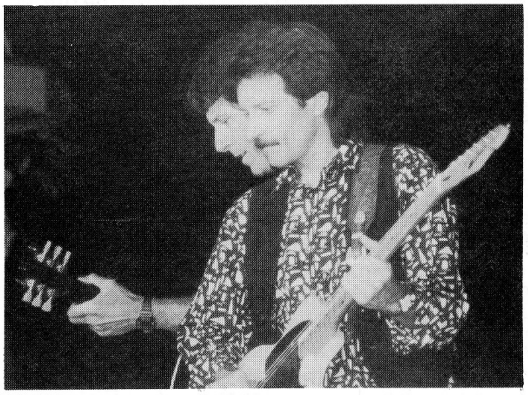
Dan Hodun
Park Falls, Wisconsin

Fan Fair '90 . . . the good news: FAN HEAVEN! Autographs! Pictures! Handshakes! Hugs! There's no other opportunity like this one! Suddenly, those other things just don't seem important.



"I like your new cassette 'The Rest of the Dream.' 'Hillbilly Hollywood' really hit home with me. You guys are my hero(es). Keep up the good music."

Monica Rogowski
Prince Albert, Canada



We call this one the "Dirt Monster"!

"I have been listening to the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band for twenty years. I love all of their songs. I hope to see them in concert again soon. The new cassette 'The Rest of the Dream' *is wonderful . . . I'm looking forward to* ***more*** *of the dream!"*

Sandy Fournier
Greely, Colorado

"The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band kind of parallels my life. I grew up with soft rock like 'Bojangles.' *Now I listen mainly to country. I like the guys' 'common folks' image."*

Mark Cooke
Salem, Oregon

There's a mixture of relief and sadness when Fan Fair is over. But after a few days, anticipation for next year begins. It's going to be even better. . . see you there!

Carol's Corner . . .

I'd like to give a big 'welcome' to all of the new Fan Club Members! And a very big 'thanks' to all of you who've been such a huge help to me during these first few weeks!

I've been asked a lot lately . . . "what does a fan club do?" and "what can I do to help?" Well, I'm going to answer those questions.

A Fan Club does many things, but ours has two main purposes: (1) Promotion of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and (2) Promote friendships between people who share a common interest . . . the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band!

There are many ways to help both the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band International Fan Club! All Fan Club Members should be making a conscious effort to request the current single from their radio station and should write requests to CMT to play the current video. Also, don't forget about any fan-voted awards!

Wear your Nitty Gritty Dirt Band tee shirts and jackets and talk-up both the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band International Fan Club!

Send me your ideas and comments and the pictures you might take of Jimmy, Jeff, Bob and Jimmie at a concert . . . and write an article for the next newsletter!

As you know, 1991 is the Silver Anniversary of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band! I want to make sure that this remarkable accomplishment is celebrated in an appropriate way . . . Plain Dirt Fashion! I'm counting on all of you for your help!

Dirt-fully,
Carol Winnett

1990 TOUR ITINERARY

9-20	London, England – Town & Country
9-22	Gstaad, Switzerland – Gstaad Festival
9-23	Gstaad, Switzerland – Gstaad Festival
10-5	Jackson, MS – Fair
10-6	Little Rock, AR – Arkansas State Fair
10-7	Atlanta, GA – Center Stage
10-8	Nashville, TN – CMA Awards
10-21	Kumamoto, Japan – Country Gold

Wanted: Pen Pals . . . if you would like to correspond with other Fan Club Members, send in your name and address. Then sharpen your pencil and watch your mailbox!

DIRT TRADER

WANTED: Persons who would like to buy, sell, or trade NGDB memorabilia, records, etc. Place your ad in the next **Dirt Trader** *by sending it to P.O. Box 1791, Hendersonville, TN 37077-1791.*

"Dear Guys . . . Saw your video yesterday and thought it was fantastic!
A Devoted Fan,
Valerie Knoll
Blue Island, Illinois"

"Jimmy Ibbotson is the GREATEST. Every time I attend a concert, they get better and better. I am impressed that even after doing late shows in Nashville, Indiana, they still sign autographs and pose for pictures when it's well after midnight. That's some kind of SPECIAL!"

Mary Kremer
Fairfield, Ohio

"DIRT CAKE"

A Nitty Gritty Recipe!

20 oz. crushed Oreo Cookies

Cream together:
8 oz. cream cheese
1/2 stick margarine
2 cups powdered sugar

Mix together:
2 – 3-oz. pkgs. instant vanilla pudding
1 – 8-oz. ctn. Cool Whip
3½ cups of milk

Layer in flower pot beginning and ending with crushed Oreos. Cream cheese mixture makes layer #4. Pudding mixture makes layers #2 and #6. Layers:
1 – Oreos
2 – 1/2 pudding mixture
3 – Oreos
4 – Cream cheese mixture
5 – Oreos
6 – pudding mixture
7 – Oreos

Top with fresh or silk flowers. Crushed Oreos look like potting soil. Fills flower pot 8¾" diameter, 7½" deep. Feeds a small crowd. Very rich!

Debra Bennight
Plainview, Texas

Longevity? All it takes is a lot of true Gritty

by Bill Bell
Daily News Staff Writer

(Reprint from New York Daily News, July 24, 1990)

It's between shows. He's sitting at a table by the bar at the Bottom Line, talking about longevity, conflict resolution and other matters of import to a country rock band.

Fans interrupt to show him albums recorded during the Nixon and Carter administrations. He looks at one called "Rare Junk," recorded in 1968, and says, "That one and me go back some."

This is Jeff Hanna, who is 43 years old now, the senior partner in a most durable enterprise called the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.

He, Bruce Kunkel, Ralph Barr, Les Thompson and Jackson Browne founded the band in 1966 in Long Beach, California. It has endured, without interruption, on the road and in the studio ever since.

This is no small deal. The only American bands in continuous business longer – reunion get-togethers don't count – are the Beach Boys (1961) and the Grateful Dead (1964). (There's some small print here. Several other groups — among them the Four Seasons, Temptations, Ventures, Lettermen, Kool & The Gang, and Gladys Knight & The Pips – are as old as the Nitty, but they all either quit the road at one time or stopped recording).

"When I was 19," says Hanna, "I never, never thought I'd survive this long."

Survive? The band is doing better now than anytime since it went Top 10 with the million-selling "Mr. Bojangles" in 1971. It works about 250 dates a year, just shipped its 23rd album ("The Rest Of The Dream" on MCA), and last year won three Grammys (and the Country Music Association's album-of-the-hear award) for "Will The Circle Be Unbroken II."

It played the Bottom Line the other night, to two packed houses and two roaring standing O's. (It has performed fairly frequently in New York, once opening for Bill Cosby at Carnegie Hall.)

"Tonight was typical," Hanna said. "There were guys wearing their Wall St. outfits, hippies, cowboys . . . It's good to know we still appeal to a broad range."

What's kept them going so long? "We agree to disagree," Hanna says.

The band has undergone 16 personnel changes over the years (including a brief stint by ex-Eagle Bernie Leadon) and long-time mainstay John McEuen dropped out a couple of years ago. But the current lineup – Hanna, Jimmie Fadden, Bob Carpenter and Jimmy Ibbotson – has held on more or less since the late 60's.

It committed itself to country music about a decade ago and scored its first No. 1 country hit, "Long Hard Road (The Sharecropper's Dream)" in 1983. It has scored fairly regularly since – "country radio caught up with us," Hanna said.

They do Dylan, Springsteen, Rodney Crowell and John Hiatt, but most of their music (upbeat, cheerful and catchy) is their own.

"The last two albums I bought were Hiatt and [Bruce] Hornsby, so that tells you who I like," says Hanna. "Plus, I like Dire Straits, bluegrass, Clint Black, and the Desert Rose Band."

Hanna sees himself doing this when he's 60. "Really, I do," he says. "It's like savings bonds. It's a long-term payoff. Real long-term."

"Just saw the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band at Valley Forge . . . it was one fabulous show! They are getting better and better and I hope they will be together for another 25 years! I remember their first time on national TV and I loved them back then!"

Joanne Brajkovich
Grantville, Pennsylvania

Latest Dirt Hotline

1 (502) 781-6267

SCHEDULE/CLUB INFO/MESSAGES

Back Issues Available

The following is a list of past newsletters available through the Fan Club. Please note: those issues marked with an asterisk (*) are photocopies. Those not marked are originals. Fan Club Member cost is 50¢ plus 25¢ postage each (U.S. funds) inside U.S.; outside U.S. are 45¢ [redacted] postage (U.S. funds).

October 1985*
September-October 1986
Summer 1988
November 1985*
January 1987*
Fall 1988
February 1986*
February-March 1987*
September-October 1987
March-April 1986*
April 1987*
Winter 1989
June-July 1986*
May-June 1987*
Vol. 5 Issue 1, 1990
August 1986*
Summer 1989

Getting down to the real 'Nitty Gritty'

By Dan Aquilante, New York Post

When old pros like the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band play, don't be surprised if expectation runs second to reality. Radio, records and TV just can't do the Dirt Band justice. The only way to get an eyeful and an earful of Dirt is live, at a good roadside honky-tonk like the Bottom Line.

At that club Wednesday, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band stripped down to its quartet core and gave two hours of the best high-steppin' and stompin' music to hit Manhattan in a long time.

One of the things that makes the Dirt Band special is its ability to bend classic country (that might otherwise be unappealing to ears attuned to pop) until it starts to rock.

Another facet that sets the Dirt Band apart and makes its music so tight is the all-for-one attitude. The musicians share the glory and never steal each other's fire, resulting in easy harmonies.

Vocal frontmen Jeff Hanna (on guitar) and Jimmy Ibbotson (on bass, guitar and mandolin) were the stars. But they would have been lost without the solid foundation built by drummer and blues harpist Jimmy Fadden and keyboard man Bob Carpenter (who often added synthesized bass).

Although the program featured some great stuff from the band's 20-year career – such as "Long Hard Road" and "Mr. Bojangles" – some of the best tunes were from the new "The Rest Of The Dream" disc. From that, the cover of Springsteen's "From Small Things (Big Things One Day Come)," "Junior's Grill" and the LP's title track were the hottest numbers on a hot night!!

(Reprinted from New York Post, July 20, 1990)

"I think the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band is the #1 band in the world! I've seen two of their concerts and enjoyed them very, very much."

Carol Milleker
Weyburn, Canada

Nitty Gritty Dirt Band
INTERNATIONAL FAN CLUB
P.O. Box 1791
Hendersonville, TN 37077-1791